



The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY
November 2025

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (Malachi 3:10).

I am starting off this month's article with the same Scripture passage that was used last month. Last month I wrote about the "why" of giving. Continuing with this theme of stewardship, I'd like to invite you to consider the "what" of giving.

The old stewardship pleas used to include three main areas of giving: time, talent, and treasure. This was to highlight that stewardship comprises all of one's life, not just a financial commitment. Time is one of the most precious commodities we have these days, and if you are like many people, it is also scarce. People are pulled in many different directions between work, activities, recreation, and family that they don't often have a huge amount of extra time. However, setting aside some time for the Church is important. This includes not just attendance at the Divine Services each week, but finding places where you might be able to give of your time in service to God and your brothers and sisters in Christ. While there are certainly things that require ongoing time commitments, there are also a number of other things that you can do on an occasional basis which are very helpful for the church as well. So when it comes to the "what" of stewardship, see where you might have some time to serve somewhere.

Related to this is the idea of talent. All of us have special skills that might also be of benefit to the church which can help alleviate costs, save money, or help with services. For example, do you work in a trade? Perhaps you might offer to use your talent in assisting with maintenance or repairs around the building. Are you financially savvy? Maybe you could offer to help the Finance Committee with their work. Do you have the gift of hospitality? Perhaps hosting a coffee hour, or running a fellowship event might be up your alley. Are you musically inclined? Our choirs can always use help, and having instrumentalists around to call on every so often is an added bonus too. Consider what you are good at – what your talent is – and then think about how you might be able to use it in service to the church.

Lastly is, of course, our treasures. Again, God has blessed us in so many ways. In thanksgiving and trust, we give back to the Lord so that he might use those resources in service back to us and for the good of our neighbor. Giving is always a touchy subject for people, and understandably. If we give so much, how do we know we will have enough to live on, or to do some of the things we enjoy doing? The truth is, God doesn't ask that much from us. In the Old Testament, a tithe was the standard – 10%. That's one buck out of ten, leaving nine to use as we see fit. Again, as the Lord encourages his people through Malachi, bring in the full tithe and see what happens. God is promising blessings without number for the church and for his people. If you are not at a full tithe, I invite you take a look at your household budget and see if there aren't ways you can start to move in that direction. God promises to bless you and provide for you even as he asks of this from you. Go ahead, he says, put me to the test and see what happens. You will be amazed at what he can do, and at what you will still have to care for yourself and others.

Prayerfully consider your "what" of giving as well. This is the next step after discovering your "why." It really is a faithful reflection for all that the Lord has given to you, not the least of which is the gift of his Son. Jesus has given all he had – his very life on the cross – so that he might have you with him eternally. For such a

gracious gift, it is good for us to think about returning time and talent and treasure to him, and to know the blessing that God promises us as we do. If you need help with any of these things, reach out to me or to anyone on the Finance Committee and we can help you think about and implement your “what” as a faithful response to God’s abundant grace for you.

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to Your will.
We give our minds to understand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design;
Hearts with the flame of Your own love ablaze—
Thus for Your glory all our pow’rs combine (LSB # 786, sts. 1-2).

~ Pastor Noack

Congregational Meeting – Our next meeting is scheduled for ***Sunday, November 16*** between the services (about 8:30am). On the agenda is the budget, information about a new educational opportunity called LIT, and other updates on church happenings. Copies of the budget are available for viewing in the office during office hours. Please make every effort to attend.

Bingo in the Afternoon – On ***Saturday, November 22 from 2-4pm***, we will host an after of Bingo, fellowship, and light refreshments. This event is open to all ages. More details will be forthcoming, but save the date and plan to join us for a fun afternoon!

Thanksgiving Eve Service – The Divine Service for Thanksgiving will be ***Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00pm***. Please join us in giving thanks to God for all his mercies, both temporal and eternal, in Christ!

Advent/Christmas Help – A signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board to help as an usher, communion steward, or acolyte for our Advent Midweek, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve Services. Please sign up to help, or contact the Church Office. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance in making our holiday services run smoothly.

Nativity Setup – On ***Sunday, November 30*** following the 9:30am, the nativity set will be put up on the front lawn of the church (weather permitting). If you can spare a few minutes that day, help is greatly appreciated.

Christmas Shoebox Dropoff – For those who took the shoeboxes last month for Operation Christmas Child, the closest drop-off location is at the Gospel Community Church on Greeley Avenue, across from the school administration building. The dates and times are as follows: Mon, Nov. 17: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Tue, Nov. 18: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wed, Nov. 19: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Thu, Nov. 20: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Fri, Nov. 21: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Sat, Nov. 22: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Sun, Nov. 23: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Mon, Nov. 24: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Don’t forget to include your check, and thank you for your participation in this wonderful program again this year!

Official Acts at Saint John's (thru October 27):

Baptisms:

Luke David Keane	Oct 12
Eliana Vivienne Fiero	Oct 19
Olivia Grace Sedlak	Oct 26

Weddings:

Joseph Mutone & Kimberly Ahmad	Oct 3
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Funerals:

Charlene Schneeberg	Oct 24
John Ruggiero	Oct 27

Holiday Service Schedule 2025

November 26	Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service	7:00pm
December 3	Advent Midweek Divine Service	12 noon & 7:00pm
December 10	Advent Midweek Divine Service	12 noon & 7:00pm
December 14	Hanging of the Greens Divine Services	7:45am & 9:30am
December 17	Advent Midweek Divine Service Singers of Long Island Concert	12 noon 7:00pm
December 21	Sunday School Christmas Pageant Longest Night Evening Prayer	9:30am 4:00pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Services	4:00pm & 7:30pm
December 25	Christmas Day Divine Service	10:30am
December 31	New Year's Eve Divine Service	7:00pm
January 7	The Epiphany of our Lord	7:00pm

“Now Thank We All Our God” is among the most widely sung hymns in Germany. It has become a classic hymn of thanksgiving transcending national, language and denominational boundaries.

Its author, Martin Rinckart, was archdeacon in Eilenburg, Saxony in the mid 17th century. It is believed that the hymn was written as a table grace for his children in the 1630s in the context of famine, plague and the 30 Years War. In one year, Rinckart is said to have officiated at the funerals of over five thousand residents, including that of his wife. Yet he wrote & encouraged others to sing:

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has one, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today. LSB 895 stz 1

He continues the prayer confidently expressing God’s abiding presence, peace, guidance & healing for us that is ours now, looks forward to what remains ours in this world, and to all which awaits us in the world to come.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next! LSB 895 stz 2

The hymn is based on a passage from Ecclesiasticus 50:22-24: *“and now bless the God of all, who in every way does great things; who exalts our days from birth and deals with us according to His mercy. May He give us gladness of heart and grant that peace may be in our days in Israel, as in the days of old. May He entrust to us His mercy! And let Him deliver us in our days!”*

The texts and prayer serve as encouragement despite trials and embattlement, whether to Old Testament Israel, those surviving the 30 Years’ War, or those in the multitude of battles and chaos that continue today.

May the hymn help us recount and give thanks for the abundant blessings we have and respond, as in stanza 3, with all praise and thanks to God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit – “The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav’n adore; For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!”

A Need

Possessing a grateful heart is a gift. Expressing that heart in music is an action we offer to God – strongly encouraged throughout scripture. We are also encouraged to bring our requests and needs to God in prayer – and to each other. The new year will bring new phases of life for some of our singers and ringers, leaving holes in the music ministry at St. John’s that need filling. Perhaps you are one with the talent (or desire) to do that. Please pray about offering your time and gift, and talk to me if God is tugging at your heart!

Do you have vision issues that stand in the way of your participation in the Divine Service? In addition to the large print bulletins, there are large print *Lutheran Service Books* in the back of the last pew in church that you are welcome to use! If that works for you, great! If not, please talk to either Pastor Noack or me to obtain hymn texts (only – no music) in a large font. We’ll do what we can to invite & aid your singing!

Speaking of vision, yellow lab Liberty, our Guide Dog Foundation breeder (often seen in the office) is expecting pups in mid-November. Prayers for a safe delivery of young ones who will be trained to assist those who are visually impaired are most welcome! ...pictures to follow in December!

Also coming in December:

SōLI – *the Singers of Long Island* presents **Chronicles and Carols** for Advent, Christmas & the New Year **Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm**. Join us for this festive concert and invite a friend along! Suggested donation is \$15 general admission / \$10 students & seniors or \$25 per family. All concert proceeds are a gift back to St. John's in thanksgiving for the rehearsal space graciously provided for the choir.

Evening Prayer will be sung at the close of day (4 pm) on December 21 as we begin the *Longest Night* of the year and look forward to the *Light of the World's* coming arrival.



Christmas Mail – This year the Mary Martha Guild is offering a Christmas Mailbox at church. This will be for those of us who attend church and would like to send Christmas cards only to people in our church family. Look for more information coming your way very soon.

Thrivent is Coming – Exciting news for us to have the Thrivent Engagement Team here for a lunch at St. John's on **Sunday, November 9th**. They look forward to sharing some of the available key Generosity programs that can be used to benefit our congregation, along with their benefit programs that can help all of us. Although many of you already use some of them, they will be sharing Best Practices for you to use to MAXIMIZE the impact you can have within your church & community! We will be meeting downstairs at 12:30 for lunch. If you are not a Thrivent member but are interested, please come and listen to what is being said. Looking forward to seeing everyone there, so don't forget to let me know that you will be coming.

- Honey Pabst, Thrivent Champion: arthon@aol.com

NOT ALL
Heroes
WEAR
CAPIES



VBS
winter break
K-5

FEBRUARY 17-20, 2026

St. John's Church
48 Greene Ave | Sayville

MUST REGISTER BY 11/30

 stjohnsayville.org/winter-vbs-registration

SCAN HERE



DAILY BIBLE READING



November 2025

	1	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 21:1-22
Sun	2	Jeremiah 1:1-19; Matthew 21:23-46
	3	Jeremiah 3:6—4:2; Matthew 22:1-22
	4	Jeremiah 5:1-19; Matthew 22:23-46
	5	Jeremiah 7:1-29; Matthew 23:1-12
	6	Jeremiah 8:18—9:12; Matthew 23:13-39
	7	Jeremiah 11:1-23; Matthew 24:1-28
	8	Jeremiah 20:1-18; Matthew 24:29-51
Sun	9	Jeremiah 22:1-23; Matthew 25:1-13
	10	Jeremiah 23:1-20; Matthew 25:14-30
	11	Jeremiah 23:21-40; Matthew 25:31-46
	12	Jeremiah 25:1-18; Matthew 26:1-19
	13	Jeremiah 26:1-19; Matthew 26:20-35
	14	Jeremiah 29:1-19; Matthew 26:36-56
	15	Jeremiah 30:1-24; Matthew 26:57-75
Sun	16	Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34; Matthew 27:1-10
	17	Jeremiah 33:1-22; Matthew 27:11-32
	18	Jeremiah 37:1-21; Matthew 27:33-56
	19	Jeremiah 38:1-28; Matthew 27:57-66
	20	Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 28:1-20
	21	Daniel 2:1-23; Rev. 18:1-24
	22	Daniel 2:24-49; Rev. 19:1-21
Sun	23	Daniel 3:1-30:10; Rev. 20:1-15
	24	Daniel 4:1-37; Rev. 21:1-8
	25	Daniel 5:1-30; Rev. 21:9-27
	26	Daniel 6:1-28; Rev. 22:1-21
	27	Isaiah 1:1-28; 1 Peter 1:1-12
	28	Isaiah 2:1-22; 1 Peter 1:13-25
	29	Isaiah 5:1-25; 1 Peter 2:1-12
Sun	30	Isaiah 6:1—7:9; 1 Peter 2:13-25

November 2025

November 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
2 All Saints' Day 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	3 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	5 11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	6 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	7 12:30pm N/A	8
9 Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 12:30pm Thrivent Lunch	10 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	12 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	13 6:30pm Bells 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Basketball	15
16 Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Congregational Meeting 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	17 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 6:00pm Basketball 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	19 11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	20 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Basketball	22 2:00pm Bingo
23 Last Sunday of the Church Year 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	24 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 6:00pm Basketball 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	26 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	27	28 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Basketball	29
30 First Sunday in Advent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 10:30am Nativity Setup	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

November Divine Service Assistant Schedule

November 2	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Bill Audia	Leo Rigaud
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	Dorothy Bauer
November 9	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	*Greg Calvano	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Al Coppola
November 16	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	*Robert Bayley	Paul Erath
Ushers	Marcus & Annie Habeeb	Lloyd & Pam Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Paul Erath
November 23	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren
Reader	Pastor	Jenn Rooney
November 30	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	*Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Kristin & Abby Noack
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Annie Habeeb

If you are unable to serve where assigned, please find someone you can switch with or someone who can take your place. Please let the Church Office know of any changes you make. Thank you.

November Readings

Nov 2: Revelation 7:2-17; 1 John 3:1-3 Nov 9: Genesis 1:1-2:3; Ephesians 6:10-17 Nov 16: Micah 6:6-8; Philippians 1:3-11 Nov 23: Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Thess 5:1-11 Nov 30: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Carolyn Holtz, Bookkeeper
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Tom Keller & Steve Lindfors, Facilities Management

Saint John's Divine Service Schedule

Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am
Wednesday 7:00pm

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 9:30am-2:30pm
Bookkeeper Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm

Our Mission

Rejoice in God's grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.

Our Purpose

The family of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, enhanced by liturgy and music, exists to encourage its members in a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus and fellowship with one another. Utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to us, we engage in acts of mercy, attending to the spiritual and physical needs within our congregation and community. We bear witness to the Grace of God through living in His Word thus demonstrating the love Christ has shown us.

A Congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The *Good News* is published by the church office of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church to keep its members and friends informed of church news and activities. Newsletter deadline for the December 2025 issue will be November 15th.